

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Submitted herewith is a replacement sheet corresponding to Figures 2a and 2b. The replacement sheet incorporates horizontal line shading in the bar labeled 164 in Fig. 2b, correcting an inadvertent omission of the same in the previously filed drawing.

REMARKS:

Status of the Claims:

Claims 13-20 and 22-24 have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 9-12, 21 and 25 are hereby cancelled. New claim 30 is hereby presented.

Specification Objection:

The specification was objected to insofar as it did not contain the current status of US application 09/520,538. The specification has been amended to correctly indicate the current status of that application, as well as to correct the filing date of the priority application indicated therein.

Sequence Listing/Sequence Rules Compliance:

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.825(a-b), a substitute Sequence Listing is submitted herewith, in both paper and computer readable form. The substitute Sequence Listing has been amended to delete sequences which had originally been designated as SEQ ID NOS: 8-13. In addition, the SEQ ID NO identifiers have been renumbered where necessary to maintain consecutive numbering (i.e., original SEQ ID NOS: 14-17 have been renumbered as SEQ ID NOS: 8-11, respectively). As original SEQ ID NOS: 8-13 have been *deleted*, and no pending claims refer to or otherwise incorporate any of original SEQ ID NOS: 8-13, no new matter has been added.

Concurrent amendments to the specification have also been made where necessary. More specifically, SEQ ID NO references have been corrected to reflect the deletion of original SEQ ID NOS: 8-13 and the renumbering of original SEQ ID NOS: 14-17 (now as SEQ ID NOS: 8-11).

Oath/Declaration:

The Declaration filed in this application has been found defective in its recitation of March 8, 1999 as the filing date of provisional application 60/123,659, in view of PTO records showing that the correct filing date is March 9, 1999. Three individual and corrected Combined Declarations and Powers of Attorney from each of the three inventors are submitted herewith.

Drawings:

Figure 2b in the drawings was objected to, in view of the apparent absence of horizontal line shading in the bar labeled 164. Applicants have submitted a replacement sheet corresponding to FIGS. 2a and 2b, in which the bar labeled 164 in FIG. 2b has been corrected to show horizontal line shading. No new matter has been introduced.

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 9-12, 21 and 25 are hereby cancelled, thereby rendering moot the objections and rejections thereof as stated in paragraphs 7-15 of the instant Office Action.

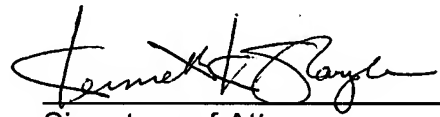
New claim 30 is presented, the subject matter of which was deemed enabled and allowable by the Office (see, paragraphs 15 and 17 of the instant Office Action). No new matter has been added.

Conclusion:

All issues raised in the instant Office Action have been fully addressed. The sole pending claim, new claim 30, is presented in allowable form, and applicants kindly request a formal indication of allowance/allowability thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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